

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): The A zirconia sintered body comprising tetragonal zirconia, wherein a full width at half maximum at (111) plane of the tetragonal zirconia obtained by X-ray diffraction pattern measured under the following conditions is from 0.38 to 4 degree.

Conditions:

Radiation Source:	CuK α beam,
Voltage · Amplitude :	40 kV x 30 mA,
Monochromator:	Graphite,
Divergence Slit:	1.0 degree,
Scattering Slit:	1.0 degree,
Detector Slit:	0.3 degree,
Step Size:	0.2 degree,
Time/step:	continuous
Background Correction:	made,
Scan Speed:	0.4 degree/minute, and

wherein the zirconia sintered body contains Al₂O₃ and an amount of Al₂O₃ in the zirconia sintered body is about 0.5% by weight or less, and wherein the zirconia sintered body contains a stabilizer and an amount of the stabilizer in the zirconia sintered body is about 2% by weight or more and 5.25% by weight or less, and the stabilizer is at least one selected from the group consisting of Y₂O₃, CeO₂, TiO₂, Yb₂O₃, Er₂O₃, and Ho₂O₃.

2. (original): The zirconia sintered body according to Claim 1, wherein the full width at half maximum at (111) plane of the tetragonal zirconia is from 0.4 to 2 degree.

3. (original): The zirconia sintered body according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the full width at half maximum at (111) plane of the tetragonal zirconia is 1 degree or less.

4. (original): The zirconia sintered body according to Claim 1, wherein a ratio of the tetragonal zirconia in the zirconia sintered body is 90 % by volume or more.

5. (original): The zirconia sintered body according to Claim 1, wherein an average grain size of the zirconia sintered body is from 0.01 to 0.3 μm .

6. (original): The zirconia sintered body according to Claim 1, wherein a density of the zirconia sintered body is 6 g/cm³ or more.

7. (original): The zirconia sintered body according to Claim 6, wherein the density of the zirconia sintered body is from 6 to 6.1 g/cm³.

8. (canceled).

9. (canceled).

10. (canceled).

11. (previously presented): A method for producing the zirconia sintered body, wherein the method comprises steps of

molding zirconia powder having an average particle diameter of from 0.1 to 0.6 µm, a maximum particle diameter of 5 µm or less and a substantially polyhedral shape, and then sintering the molded green body under the temperature of from 1200 to 1400 °C.

12. (original): The method according to Claim 11, wherein the zirconia powder contains monoclinic crystal.

13. (original): The method according to Claim 12, wherein a ratio of the monoclinic crystal in the zirconia powder is 70 % by volume or more.